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Security Council

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Letter dated 13 September 2004 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 1 to 31 July 2004.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

04-51036 (E) 150904

Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. This report covers the period from 1 to 31 July 2004.

2. As at 31 July 2004, the total number of troops in theatre was 17,728, including 3,068 troops from non-Nato countries.

3. There was no change of status of partner/non-NATO country contributions.

Security

4. The general situation in Kosovo is relatively calm but not stable, with the potential for inter-ethnic violence. The public protest over decentralization in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia[1] has not spread to Kosovo; KFOR is monitoring this situation closely.

5. The number of violent intra- and inter-ethnic events is low. During the month four incidents were reported, which were directed towards Kosovo Serbs or Ashkalis by Kosovo Albanians.

6. The threat against KFOR remained relatively low throughout the month.

7. A total of 59 incidents were reported related to drugs, weapons and smuggling activity in July 2004. This was a 37 per cent increase compared to the previous month. Events related to drugs, smuggling and counterfeit currency were increasing, while illegal weapons finds were decreasing.

8. KFOR continued operations to secure the theatre to avoid ethnic violence and protect minority enclaves and patrimonial sites. KFOR remained vigilant to deter possible threats directed against international organizations and military bases. The NATO force continued to improve its crowd and riot control capabilities.

Compliance by the Army of Serbia and Montenegro and the Ministry of Internal Affairs Special Police

9. No breaches of the Military Technical Agreement were reported during July 2004.

Kosovo Protection Corps

10. The current membership of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) is 2,986 active members, including 142 minorities, of which 32 are Serbs. The reserve personnel establishment list includes 1,838 members, of which 17 are minorities. The results show a low rate of minorities in KPC. A concern is that there are not enough free positions in the active personnel establishment list for minorities to fill in order to reach the 10 per cent minority goal for KPC.

11. During July 2004, roll calls were conducted in 29 KPC units. The number of individuals on sick leave, or other, is at an acceptable level of approximately 20 per cent.

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[1] Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.